(d) A quantity of 70,000 metric tonnes of rice has been allotted to the Government of Andhra Pradesh from the Central Pool for the Public Distribution System every month during the year 1989 (upto July, 1989). Sub allocation from out of this quantity for ITDP areas is done by the State Government.

Central Assistance to Tamil Nadu for Drought Relief

470. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the amount of financial assistance demanded by the Tamil Nadu Government in its memorandum submitted to the Centre for drought relief; and

(b) what is the amount sanctioned by the Central Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Government of Tamil Nadu submitted a memorandum in May, 1989 for drought relief seeking Central assistance amounting to Rs. 221.95 crore. A ceiling of expediture of Rs. 38.05 crore has been approved for the State Government in June, 1989 for drought relief.

Uniform Municipal set up in the Country

471. SHRI V. GOPAL SAMY:
SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the decisions taken in the first regional Sammelan of elected representatives of Municipalities conducted in Bangalore; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide a uniform Municipal set up throughout the country and if so, what are the features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The participants favoured the strengthening of urban local bodies through constitutional recognition, regular elections, assignment of specific functions and resources and coordination of rural and urban development.

(b) The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

Increase in the prices of indigenous Newsprint

472. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the increase in the prices of indigenous newsprint;

(b) what is the role of Government in fixing the price of indigenous newsprint; and

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider its earlier decision on demand for permission to the newspapers industry to import newsprint directly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K.K. TEWARY): (a) the increase in the prices of indigenous newsprint is attributable to increase in the cost of production and financial viability of the mills.